

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2412 - SB 2371

March 12, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Authorizes a parent of a newborn to object to the treatment of the infant's eyes with a prophylaxis to prevent ophthalmia neonatorum or infections leading to blindness. Deletes the current Class C misdemeanor offense for any physician, nurse, or midwife who fails to perform this treatment.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (013164): Deletes and replaces language of the bill such that the only substantive change is that a mother who objects to such medical treatment must provide a signed statement to the Department of Health (DOH) declaring, under penalty of perjury, that such treatment conflicts with the person's religious beliefs.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- According to the DOH, this legislation would align this newborn treatment to be consistent with other newborn treatments which have opt-out provisions.
- There will not be a sufficient decrease in the number of prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant decrease in revenue or expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee".

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jdb

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